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Highlights

BC College and Institute Student Outcomes

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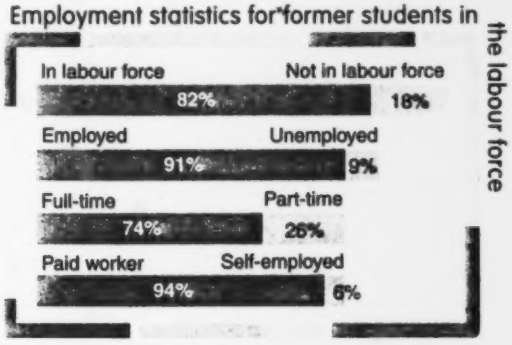
About Former Students

- 82% of former students surveyed were in the labour force—working or looking for work
- 74% of those surveyed were employed
- 47% took some further education
- 84% were satisfied with their studies
- 70% said their college experience helped them become aware of different cultures

ARE FORMER STUDENTS EMPLOYED?

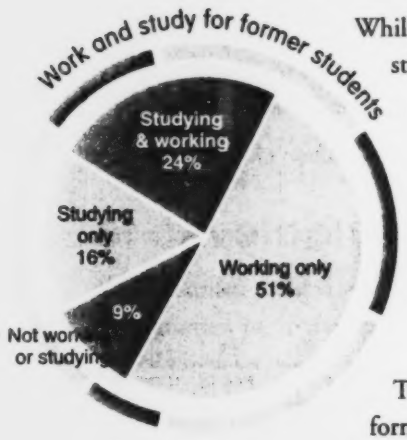
In the labour force

When surveyed, most former students—82 percent—reported they were in the labour force, that is, employed or looking for work. Of all survey respondents, 74 percent were employed. Over 90 percent of those in the labour force were working, and almost three-quarters of those who were employed were working full-time.



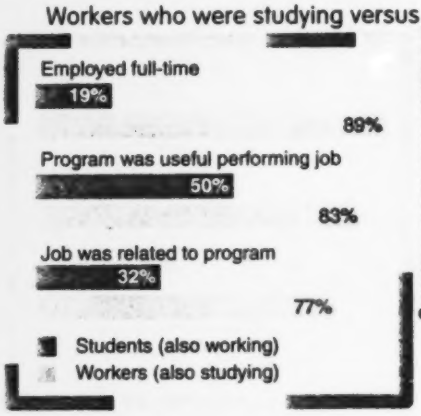
Seventy-four percent of full-time employed respondents said their job was related to the training they received in their college, university college, or institute program. As well, 81 percent said their program had been useful to them in performing their jobs.

Working and studying



While the majority of former students surveyed—51 percent—were employed and not continuing their education, a further 24 percent said they were both studying and working.

Thirty-nine percent of the former students who were working and studying at the time of the survey considered themselves workers or employed persons rather than students. When they were asked if their job was related to their training, the responses of these former students were very different from the responses of those who considered themselves to be students who were working.



About the Highlights

This brochure highlights the findings from the BC College and Institute Student Outcomes Survey conducted in the spring of 2002. All of BC's publicly funded colleges, institutes, and university colleges participated, and out of 31,500 eligible former students, approximately 17,300 or 55 percent responded to the survey.

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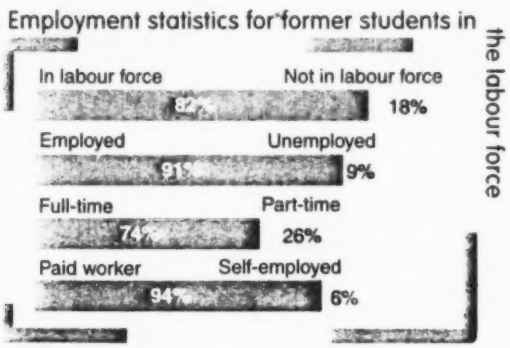

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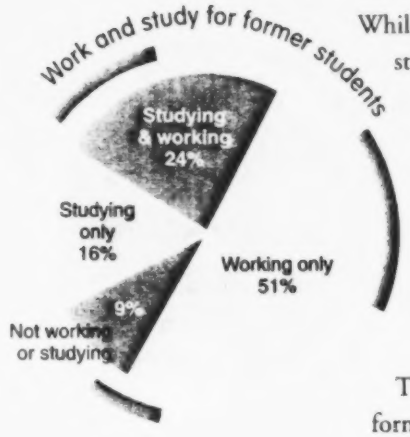

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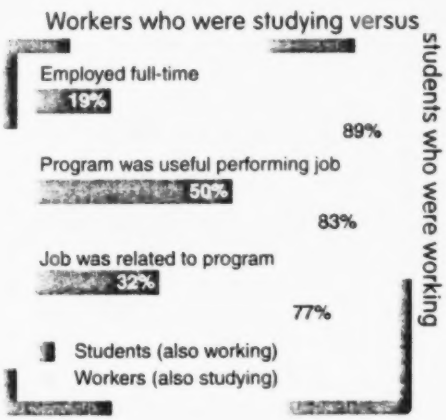

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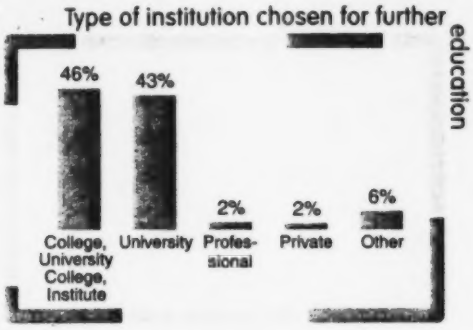
DID FORMER STUDENTS CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION?

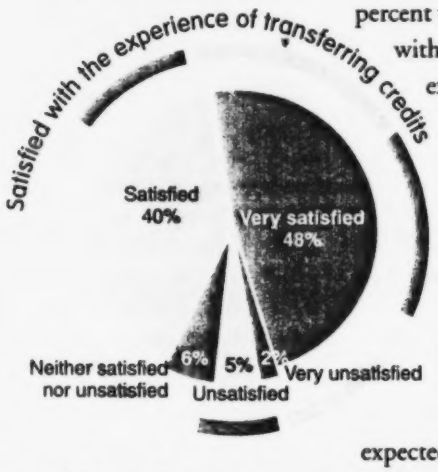
Took further education

Of those who took further education any time since leaving their program (47 percent of respondents), almost half continued their studies at a college, university college, or institute.



Transferring credits

A majority (68 percent) of those who went on to further studies expected to transfer course credits to their new institution. Eighty-nine percent of those respondents got the credit they anticipated, and 88 percent were satisfied with their experience of transferring credits.

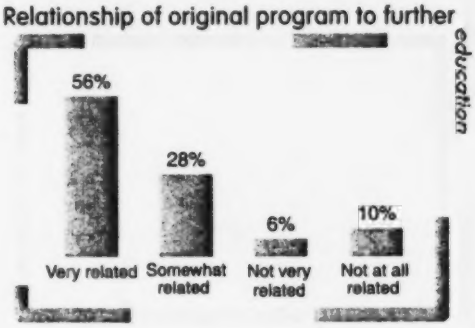


Of those who did not get the course transfer credit they expected, 55 percent said it was because the courses were not designed for transfer to their new institution, 44 percent said their courses transferred but not all of the credits could be used toward their degree, and 40 percent said they didn't know or understand the transfer requirements.

"It was a great experience. Everything was really easy to transfer."

Success of program

Of all the respondents who went on to further education, 55 percent felt they had been very well prepared by the program they left. Another 37 percent said they had been somewhat prepared. Similarly, 84 percent said their current program of study was related to the program they had completed.



Satisfied with studies

Of all the former students surveyed, 84 percent said they were satisfied with the studies they had taken: 36 percent were completely satisfied and 48 percent, mainly satisfied. Eighty-four percent of former students who were studying at the time of the survey were satisfied, as were 85 percent of those who were working when surveyed.

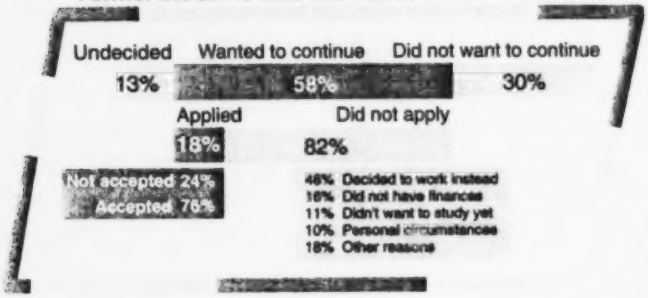
"It was exactly what I needed and it was a great transition from high school to university."

103-05148/

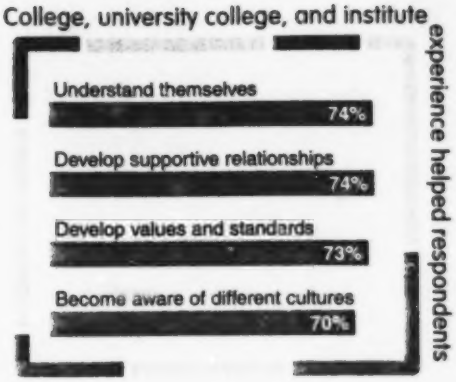
Did not continue studying

The 53 percent of former students who had not taken any further education since leaving their initial program were asked if they had wanted to continue their studies; 58 percent said yes. Of those who wanted to continue, just over 18 percent made a formal application to a post-secondary institution. Those who were not accepted thought it may have been due to poor grades (27 percent) lack of available spaces (18 percent), or missed deadlines (6 percent). Those who were accepted had a variety of reasons for not enrolling, which included deciding to work or not having the financial resources.

Former students who did not continue their studies



College, university college, and institute experience helped respondents



Skill development

Former students said that they had been given opportunities to develop skills that prepared them for employment or further studies. A majority of 70 percent said that their experience helped them obtain the skills and knowledge they needed for a specific job or type of work—76 percent of those who were working and not continuing their studies said they had been prepared in this area. Eighty-two percent of those who were studying at the time of the survey said their experience helped them obtain the knowledge and skills they needed for further study.

"I got all the skills I needed and got a good job."

DID FORMER STUDENTS REALIZE LEARNING GAINS?

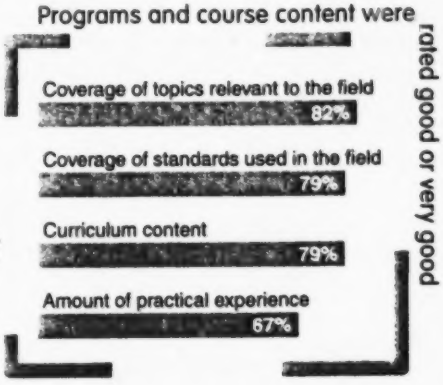
Personal development

An important function of education is to help students develop into socially responsible, mature citizens who appreciate diversity and have achieved a significant level of personal growth. A number of questions in the 2002 survey gave former students an opportunity to indicate how well they were helped to develop personally and socially. A sizeable majority of respondents said that their college, university college, or institute experience contributed to their personal development.

Program ratings

Overall, former students gave their programs and courses high ratings. One of the lowest ratings was given to the amount of practical experience offered—although a majority of 67 percent of respondents still said it was good or very good.

Programs and course content were rated good or very good



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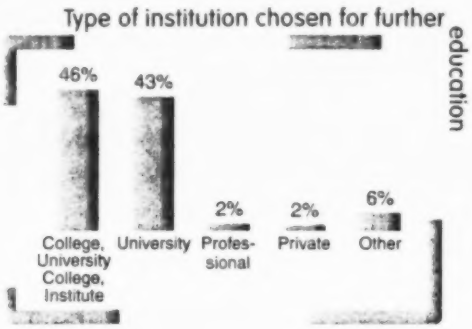

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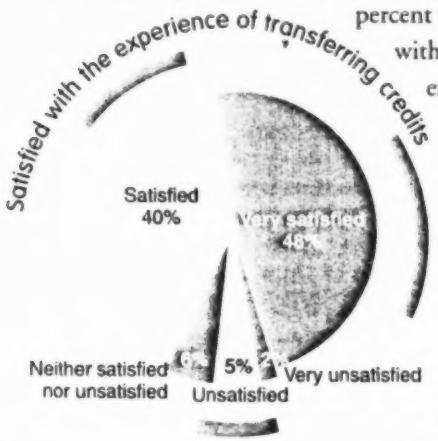

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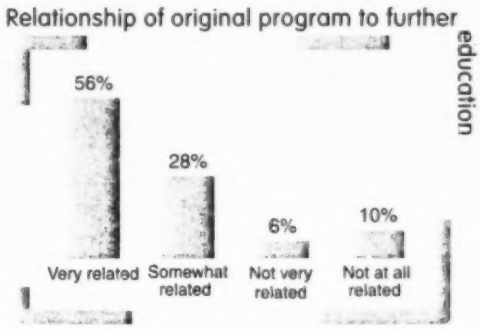

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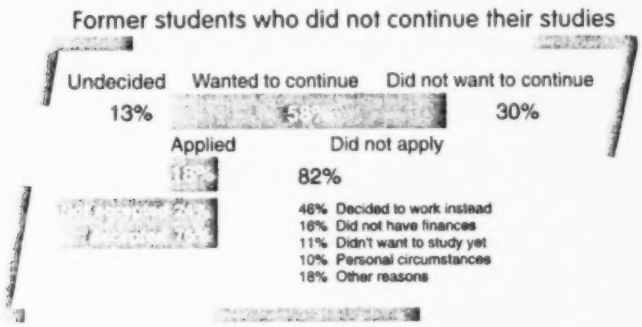

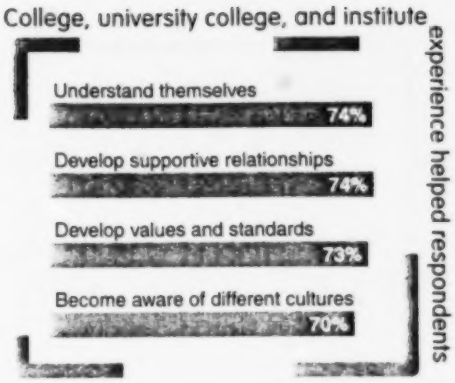

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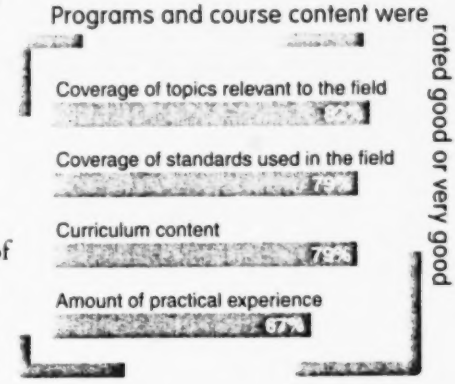
Programs and course content were
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Coverage of topics relevant to the field
Coverage of standards used in the field
Curriculum content
Amount of practical experience
67%

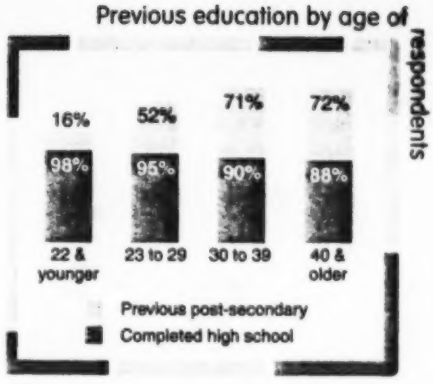
WHO ARE FORMER STUDENTS?

Demographics

The majority of former students were female: 56 percent of those surveyed. Females tended to be a little older, with a median age of 25 at the time of the survey, while the median for males was 24. The largest proportion of survey respondents (35 percent) were in the 23 to 29 age group.

Previous education

Ninety-four percent of the former students surveyed had completed high school prior to enrolling in their college, university college, or institute program. Overall, 48 percent had taken some previous post-secondary education.



Out of those who took previous post-secondary education, 56 percent had a credential—42 percent had trades, other non-university, or lower-level certificates or diplomas, and 18 percent had a bachelor's or higher-level degree.

About the BC College and Institute Student Outcomes Survey

Since 1988, BC's public colleges, university colleges, and institutes, in co-operation with the Ministry of Advanced Education, have collected student feedback through an annual province-wide survey. Former students from academic and applied programs are contacted by telephone 9–20 months after they have completed all, or a significant portion, of their program. They are asked if they were satisfied with the education they received and about their experiences at the institution, their employment status, and any further studies they've taken.

The survey results are used by colleges, university colleges, and institutes to evaluate and improve programs and services. The Ministry of Advanced Education uses the information for policy evaluation and planning. Students, parents, and the general public can view students' outcomes through Opening Doors (www.openingdoorsbc.com) to help them make informed post-secondary education choices.

The British Columbia Outcomes Working Group (OWG) oversees the survey project. The OWG is a long-standing partnership among the Ministry, colleges, university colleges, institutes, and a number of system-wide organizations, including the Standing Committee on Evaluation and Accountability, the Senior Instructional Officers' Committee, the Senior Educational Services Officers' Committee, and the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer.

The BC College and Institute Student Outcomes Survey is conducted with funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education and BC's public colleges, university colleges, and institutes.

For more information on BC student outcomes or to view the Highlights and other outcomes reports, please see http://outcomes.ceiss.org or contact:
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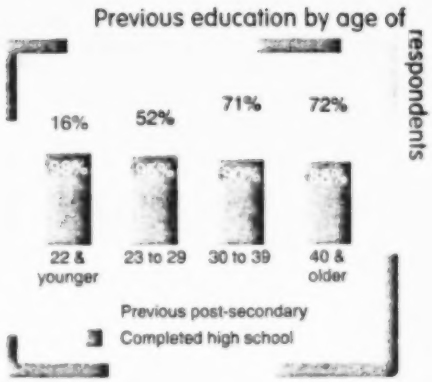

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